

Message Text

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ACTION PM-05

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S E C R E T TEHRAN 5040

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS:
SUBJ: IIN INTEREST IN SHARING SATELLITE BEING SOLD TO
IRAN

1. ABII EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR-ENGINEERING, ROBERT HARRIS, CALLED ON POL-MIL COUNSELOR MAY 25 TO DISCUSS SUBJECT. HARRIS DESCRIBED HISTORY OF ABII DESIGN WORK FOR IRANIAN SATELLITE. INITIAL IRANIAN REQUIREMENTS WERE TO BE MET IN 2400 POUND SATELLITE, UTILIZING INTELSAT COMMERCIAL GROUND TERMINAL. IRANIANS SUBSEQUENTLY ASKED, IN CONTEXT OF SEEK SWITCH PROGRAM INVOLVING BOTH CIVIL AND MILITARY COMMUNICATIONS FOR ALL OF IRAN, ABOUT MAKING SMALL USE OF SATELLITE POTENTIAL FOR MILITARY COMMUNICATIONS. SUBSEQUENT IRANIAN REQUIREMENTS, MAINLY CIVIL, LED TO NEED TO ENLARGE SATELLITE TO 4000 POUNDS. AT THAT POINT IIN RAISED QUESTION OF UTILIZING PORTION OF SATELLITE FOR SHORT COMMUNICATIONS DOWN TO TEN DEGREES NORTH LATITUDE.

2. IN RESPONSE TO LATTER REQUEST ABII/QUERIED MUNITIONS CONTROL EARLIER THIS YEAR AND WAS TOLD IN REPLY THAT IT NOT PROPITIOUS TO PURSUE THAT REQUEST; IT SHOULD BE POSTPONED. WE UNDERSTAND THAT ASD/ISA/ NESA HAD DISCUSSED THE REQUEST WITH MC PRIOR TO
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MC RESPONSE TO ABII.

3. HARRIS SAID THAT HE AND TWO OTHER US-BASED ABII OFFICIALS BRIEFED DCINCEUR DURING DCINCEUR WASHINGTON CONSULATIONS IN EARLY APRIL PRIOR TO COMING TO IRAN IN MID-APRIL TO LOOK INTO POSSIBLE ASSISTANCE USE MIGHT PROVIDE TO IRAN ON COMMAND, CONTROL AND

COMMUNICATIONS (C3). HARRIS ASKED IF QUESTION OF IIN USE OF PART OF SATELLITE AROSE DURING UCINCEUR VISIT HERE. POL-MIL COUNSELOR SAID HE NOT AWARE OF FORMAL DISCUSSION: TOUFANIAN HAD MENTIONED IT IN PASSING, BUT DCINCEUR DID NOT RESPOND.

4. HARRIS SAID ABII UNDERSTOOD WASHINGTON NOT RECEPTIVE TO IIN REQUEST, AND, OF COURSE, ABII COULD NOT DISCUSS IT WITHOUT MC APPROVAL. HARRIS SAID HE WOULD LIKE TO GET ON WITH THE SATELLITE AS IT NOW STANDS; ADDING MORE REQUIREMENTS WOULD ADD TIME AND COMPLICATIONS WHICH MIGHT SINK THE PROJECT IN HIS VIEW. HE CONCLUDED, HOWEVER, THAT GOI MIGHT RAISE IIN ASPECT IN DISCUSSIONS HE WILL HAVE TO REVIEW PROJECT HERE NEXT WEEK. IF THAT HAPPENS HARRIS WILL ADVISE GOI THAT ABII LACKS REQUIRED MC APPROVAL WITH RESPECT POSSIBLE IIN USE.

5. WOULD APPRECIATE RECEIVING SOONEST FULL DETAILS AND BACKGROUND ON IIN ANGLE TO IRANIAN SATELLITE, INCLUDING REASONS BEHIND WASHINGTON APPARENT RELUCTANCE TO VIEW IIN INTEREST FAVORABLY.

SULLIVAN

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